



repairing homes, restoring hope.

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**WISCONSIN CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SELECTED TO ADMINISTER 2008 FLOOD RECOVERY PROGRAM
IN WISCONSIN**

Program to Provide \$6 Million of Support to Homeowners

Sun Prairie, WI, November 10, 2009 – The Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church, working in partnership with Wisconsin Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (WIVOAD), has been selected to administer the **2008 Flood Recovery Program (FRP)** by the State of Wisconsin's Department of Health Services. In total, the Wisconsin Conference will manage a budget of \$6 million, which will primarily be used to help homeowners in Southern Wisconsin whose residences were damaged during the flooding and storms in 2008.

Wisconsin was one of several states throughout the country that received part of a \$600 million Federal Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Service. A total of \$15.9 in SSBG funds was granted to Wisconsin which must be distributed by September 30, 2010. The other \$9.9 million of the SSBG will be going toward initiatives such as the Outreach Services administered by Lutheran Social Services: Project Recovery, system upgrades for 2-1-1 Wisconsin, Inc., and the hiring of a local flood coordinator for Gays Mills through the Wisconsin Emergency Management.

According to Karen Timberlake, Secretary of the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services, "there are thousands of families and their dwellings still suffering from the damage caused by the floods of 2008. It is our goal to ensure these people, many who did not have flood insurance, receive the badly needed resources that we can provide through this grant money."

The funds awarded to the **2008 Flood Recovery Program** will be distributed to help repair damage to primary residences, replace items such as furnaces and appliances, and provide case management support to homeowners affected by the devastating floods and storms that ravaged the 30 counties in the summer of 2008. Residents must meet financial qualifications and other requirements in order to be eligible to receive FRP funds.

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The Wisconsin Conference UMC Bishop Linda Lee is pleased that her organization was selected to administer the program. "United Methodists believe that our God-given purpose in the world is to bring transformation by living our faith enthusiastically," said Lee. "We are so fortunate to have this opportunity to put our faith into practice, side-by-side with our ecumenical partners, including Wisconsin Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (WIVOAD) and United Methodist Committee on Relief."

Homeowners who need support and were victims of the flood and storms in the 30-county area are asked to call the FRP Call Center (either dial 2-1-1 or 877-947-2211). An operator will take the homeowner's initial inquiries and prequalify those who may be eligible to receive assistance. Homeowners will then be referred to FRP Case Managers throughout the Southern Wisconsin region for follow-up responses. Additional information about the program is available at: www.2008floodrecovery.org.

About the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church

The Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church is headquartered in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. It provides a connection for ministry linking all United Methodist clergy and the 480 congregations across Wisconsin. For more information visit: www.wisconsinumc.org or contact Director of Communications, Michele Virnig at: mvirnig@wisconsinumc.org or 888-240-7328.

About the Wisconsin Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (WIVOAD)

Wisconsin Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster is a coalition of more than 25 voluntary, nonprofit organizations that respond to disasters as part of their overall mission. WIVOAD members share knowledge and resources throughout the disaster cycle -- preparation, response and recovery -- and help disaster survivors and their communities return to stability. Some of the members of the Wisconsin VOAD include: the American Red Cross, Catholic Charities, Impact 2-1-1, Lutheran Social Services, MN-WI Baptist Convention, Presbyterian Disaster Response, The Salvation Army, United Methodist Committee on Relief, WI Council of Churches, Aid Matrix, and more. For more information, contact Keith Lang, President of WIVOAD, and Director of Project Recovery, at: klang@lsswis.org or 608-834-4444.

The 30 counties in Southern Wisconsin designated as disaster areas in 2008 include:

Adams, Calumet, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, Manitowoc, Marquette, Milwaukee, Monroe, Ozaukee, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Vernon, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha and Winnebago.

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